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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government have not approved the expenditure. The purchase and distribution of books and slates to poor pupils is not a function of the Panchayat under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950. Moreover, the Panchayat is not maintaining any Elementary or Higher Elementary Schools."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" A panchayat board is intended to help the people in whatever way it could. It is the function of a panchayat board to help the people in the locality, even though the provision of such help is not provided for in the rules. If the Government are convinced that what the panchayat board has done is a right thing, will they be pleased to amend the Village Panchayats Act so as to permit the giving of such help? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Amendment of the Village Panchayats Act is quite a different thing. As it is, panchayat boards have to function within the provisions of that Act."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In Kankole, the percentage of literacy is very low. A majority of the children do not attend school for want of books, slates, etc., and the parents are not in a position to supply them with books, etc., for want of money. Is it not the duty of the Panchayat Board to see that the children are made to go to school by supplying them books, etc.? As the Panchayat Board has done a great and glorious thing, will the Government see their way to comply with the request? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Every body is expected to discharge its own functions. When it goes outside those functions, we have to take it to task. It may be a glorious or inglorious thing, but that is not the criterion."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" புஸ்தகம் ஸ்லேட்டுகளை பஞ்சாயத்து போர்ட் இலவசமாக வழங்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டதற்கு அந்தத் திட்டத்திற்கு சட்டத்தில் இடம் இல்லை என்று சர்க்கார் கூறி இருக்கிறார்கள். இனியாவது அவ்வாறு ஏழை மக்களுக்கு வாங்கி இலவசமாகக் கொடுப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் யோசிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A request may be made and it could be considered."

* 950 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any request from the Panchayat Board, Kankole (North Malabar), for approving an expenditure of Rs. 100 in the shape of books and slates to poor pupils in the elementary schools within the panchayat limits; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have accorded the sanction and if not, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 949."

Land assigned to Nandanar Kalvi Kazhagam, Chidambaram.

* 951 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state what happened to the 51·6 acres of land assigned to Nandanar Kalvi Kazhagam, Chidambaram, after the Government took over the management of all the educational institutions, which had been previously managed by the Kazhagam?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The land was resumed and again placed at the disposal of the Manager of the Nandanar Kalvi Kazhagam for the maintenance of the music class, religious class and temple of the Kazhagam."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know whether the Government are asking the management of the Nandanar Kalvi Kazhagam to show accounts in respect of the income and expenditure? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The hon. Member has jumped into a different subject. I want notice."

Financial aid by the Indian Sugarcane Committee to the Sugarcane Research Station at Gudiyattam.

* 952 *Q.*—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee gives any financial aid to the Sugarcane Research Station at Gudiyattam; and

(*b*) if so, the amount given for 1952–53?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Rs. 5,515."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know what worthy contribution this research station has made to the increased production of sugarcane and for improving the quality? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Educational and medical concessions to the children of retired N.G.Os.

* 953 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the retired Non-gazetted Officers are eligible for Educational and Medical concessions to their children?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."